ISSUE #3

EXCELEM 2.0

January 2026-
June 2026

Co-funded by the European Union

Newsletter



Here's what has happened in the last months and what's to come!

Welcome to the latest EXCELEM 2.0 newsletter! We are pleased to share some of the Centre's latest activities and initiatives carried out during 2026.

In March, the East-Med Green Hackathon Competition challenged participants to develop policy solutions for an EU–East Mediterranean Green Corridor.

Later that month, the seminar "The External Dimension of Migration: The Role of Frontex" explored EU migration policy, border management and cooperation with third countries.

In April, the seminar "How to Write a Research Paper" provided practical guidance on literature reviews, reliable academic sources and the responsible use of AI in research.

In May, Prof. Sharon Pardo delivered the lecture "Europe's Far-Right Parties and Netanyahu's Israel", examining European politics and EU–Israel relations.

Meanwhile, work continues on the EXCELEM 2.0 platform, which will bring together microlearning programmes, seminars, tutorials, hackathons and further learning opportunities.

Enjoy this newsletter!

EXCELEM 2.0 Team

In this newsletter you can expect:

EAST-MED Green Hackathon Competition

Seminar: The External Dimension of Migration – The Role of Frontex

How to write a reasearch paper

Lecture: Europe's Far-Right Parties and Netanyahu's Israel

Hackathon: Tackling Disinformation in the European Union

EXCELEM 2.0 Platform

Community News

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ERDIC

ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ

Young European Federalists Greece

EU EAST-MED GREEN CORRIDOR

EAST-MED GREEN HACKATHON

COMPETITION

Introduction to the Topic

19 March 2026, 11:00 am

Room 203, University of Piraeus

Policy Challenge

Build an EU East Med Green Corridor – Innovate, Create, Shape the Future!

Earn your hackathon badge!

Presentation of Policy Recommendations

20 March 2026, 13:00 am

East-Med Green Hackathon Competition

On 19–20 March 2026, EXCELEM 2.0 organised the East-Med Green Hackathon Competition at the University of Piraeus, inviting participants to develop a flagship policy initiative for an EU–East Mediterranean Green Corridor.

Built around a policy simulation of a major energy-security shock, the challenge asked participants to examine how the EU could reduce its exposure to fossil-fuel disruptions while accelerating cooperation with Eastern Mediterranean partners. Working as members of a simulated High-Level Expert Group on Green Energy Security and Diversification, teams were asked to design realistic initiatives combining energy security, the green transition and regional cooperation.

Participants were encouraged to work within existing EU frameworks and financing instruments, considering actors such as the European Commission, EEAS, EIB, EBRD and regional organisations, as well as private renewable-energy and infrastructure partners.

Highlights

Policy Challenge:
Teams developed one flagship initiative aimed at strengthening both EU energy resilience and cooperation with the Eastern Mediterranean.

From Policy Design to Implementation:
Participants were required to translate their ideas into a 4–5 page policy concept note.

EU Financing & Governance Tools:
The exercise introduced participants to instruments such as NDICI–Global Europe, Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – Energy, EIB/EBRD financing, guarantees, blended finance and public–private partnerships.

Economic & Investment Assessment:
Teams were encouraged to consider tools including NPV, IRR, WACC, LCOE, cost–benefit analysis and scenario analysis.

Final Policy Pitch:
The Hackathon concluded with an 8-minute presentation of policy recommendations, challenging participants to explain how their initiative could make the EU more resilient and integrated while creating mutually beneficial cooperation with Eastern Mediterranean partners.





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UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS

ERDIC

The External dimension of migration: the role of Frontex

Maria Gavouchidou, Senior Liaison Officer to Greece, Bulgaria and Cyprus

Discussants

Eleftheria Markozani, Assistant Professor, University of Piraeus

Markos Karavias, Adjunct Lecturer, University of Piraeus

Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation

Friday, 20 March 2026

16:30-18:00

In collaboration with the M.Sc. in International and European Studies.

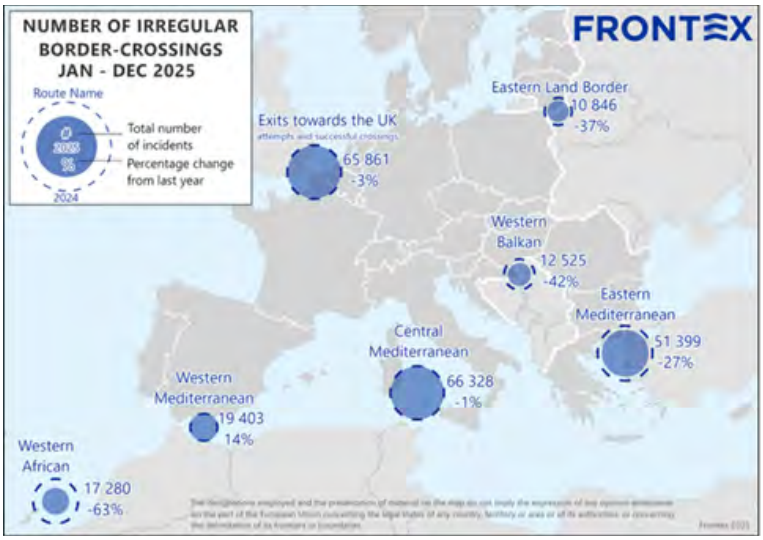
*Certificates of attendance will be provided

The External dimension of migration: the role of Frontex

On 20 March 2026, EXCELEM 2.0 organised the seminar “The External Dimension of Migration: The Role of Frontex” at the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, in collaboration with the M.Sc. in International and European Studies of the University of Piraeus.

The seminar featured Maria Gavouchidou, Senior Liaison Officer to Greece, Bulgaria and Cyprus, and examined the role of Frontex within the external dimension of European migration and border management. The discussion was complemented by Assistant Professor Eleftheria Markozani and Adjunct Lecturer Markos Karavias, University of Piraeus, who participated as discussants.

The theme was particularly timely: shortly before the seminar, EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers had discussed the external dimension of migration with a focus on cooperation with transit countries and the EU’s “whole-of-route” approach, including developments along the Eastern and Central Mediterranean routes.



Highlights

The External Dimension of EU Migration:
The seminar explored how migration management extends beyond the EU’s territorial borders through cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

The Role of Frontex:
Maria Gavouchidou presented the role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in supporting European border management and cooperation.

Operational and Institutional Cooperation:
The seminar provided an opportunity to consider how operational cooperation, liaison structures and exchanges between Frontex, Member States and partner countries contribute to the management of the EU’s external borders.

Academic Discussion:
Assistant Professor Eleftheria Markozani and Adjunct Lecturer Markos Karavias contributed to the discussion, bringing academic perspectives to the evolving legal and policy dimensions of European migration and border governance.

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ERDIC

ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ



How to write a research paper

Sofia Mastrokoukou,
Assistant Professor,
Universitas Mercatorum, Italy

24 April

14:00 - 16:00

Room 107, University of Piraeus

How to write a research paper

On 24 April 2026, EXCELEM 2.0 organised the seminar “How to Write a Research Paper” at the University of Piraeus, led by Sofia Mastrokoukou, Assistant Professor at Universitas Mercatorum, Italy. The session introduced participants to key stages of the academic research process and offered practical guidance for developing a well-structured and reliable research paper.

The seminar focused on conducting a literature review, identifying credible academic sources, organising bibliographic material and assessing the relevance and reliability of existing research. It also addressed the growing use of Artificial Intelligence in academic work, highlighting the importance of using AI tools critically, responsibly and in accordance with principles of academic integrity.

Highlights

Conducting a Literature Review:
Participants were introduced to the main steps involved in reviewing existing academic literature.
Finding and Evaluating Reliable Sources:
The seminar explored how researchers can identify credible academic publications and assess sources according to their relevance, reliability and scholarly value.
Building and Managing the Bibliography:
Practical attention was given to the organisation and appropriate use of bibliographic material.
Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence:
The session examined how AI tools can support research activities such as exploring topics and structuring ideas, while emphasising verification, transparency, critical evaluation and academic integrity.
AI was presented as a supporting tool rather than a substitute for independent academic judgement.



The East Med Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence 2.0 and the MSc in International and European Studies invite you to the lecture:

Europe's far-right parties and Netanyahu's Israel

Guest Lecturer

Sharon Pardo, Professor, Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in European Studies in the Department of Politics and Government at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

4 May 2026

10:00 - 11:00

Room 009, University of Piraeus

Online attendance via **Zoom** is available.

Europe's far-right parties and Netanyahu's Israel

In 4 May 2026, the East-Med Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence 2.0 (EXCELEM 2.0), together with the M.Sc. in International and European Studies of the University of Piraeus, hosted the lecture "Europe's Far-Right Parties and Netanyahu's Israel."

The guest lecturer was Prof. Sharon Pardo, Professor and Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in European Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The lecture provided an academic examination of the relationship between European far-right parties and Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu, placing the topic within the broader context of contemporary European politics and EU–Israel relations.

Highlights

Euurope's Far-Right Parties and Israel:
Prof. Sharon Pardo addressed the evolving relationship between European far-right political parties and Israel, examining the topic within the wider European political landscape.

EU–Israel Relations:
The lecture situated these developments within the broader framework of relations between the European Union and Israel.

European Political Dynamics:
The session offered students an opportunity to consider how changing party politics in Europe intersect with foreign policy and political alliances with Israel.

Academic Discussion:
The lecture encouraged critical discussion on contemporary European politics and EU–Israel relations, contributing to EXCELEM 2.0's wider academic dialogue on developments affecting Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.



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ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ

EUROPE DIRECT
ELIAMEP Attikis

EUROPE DIRECT
Piraeus

Organized by **Europe Direct ELIAMEP Attica**, **Europe Direct Piraeus** and **Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence EXCELEM 2.0** of the department of International and European Studies of the University of Piraeus

HACKATHON
About Misinformation in the EU

What is a Hackathon;



Despite its name, it doesn't necessarily include hacking. Our hackathon:

- Is about **misinformation in the EU**
- Participants are divided into **groups of 5-10**
- They find **political solutions** to misinformation
- Has the structure of a cooperative **policy brief**

Themes



- Fact-checking
- Misinformation Dissemination Networks
- Deepfakes and AI
- Political Impact of Misinformation

Where & When?

25 May, 2026
12:30-17:30
Ceremony Hall,
Central Building,
University of Piraeus

With the support of the **MSc in International and European Studies** of the University of Piraeus, as well as:

ΟΔΕΘ

Young European Federalists Greece

EXCELEM 2.0 | Co-funded by the European Union | ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ ΤΜΗΜΑ ΔΙΕΘΝΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ | ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ | EUROPE DIRECT ELIAMEP Attikis | EUROPE DIRECT Piraeus

Hackathon

About Misinformation in the European Union



12:00-12:30 — **Registration**

12:30-13:15 — **Welcome and Greetings**

- **Foteini Asderaki,** Professor, Chair Jean Monnet, Director of East-med Jean Monnet Center of Excellence 2.0, University of Piraeus
- **Evangelia Georgiou,** Activities and Communications Official, Europe Direct ELIAMEP Attica
- **Panagiotis Kyrimis,** Director, Europe Direct Piraeus
- **Elvira Forte,** Public Relations Official, Office of the European Parliament in Greece
- **Eleni Anesiadou,** Reporter, President of JEF Piraeus-Athens

13:15-13:30 — **Presentation of East-Med Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence 2.0**

- **Petros Tsachouridis,** ERDIC Lab Researcher, University of Piraeus

13:30-16:30 — **Hacking time - Group Work**

Mentors:

- **Nikolaos Papathanasiou,** National Cybersecurity Authority
- **Fani Apospori**, Reporter, Pool of Young Journalists
- **Theofilos Bouldanis,** Fact Checker, Greece Fact Check
- **Angeliki Misailidou,** Business Programme Manager, Microsoft
- **Georgia Anagnostaki,** Researcher – Scientific Partner, Project Manager in the Center of Security Research, PERISCOPE.

16:30-17:00 — **Presentation of Results**

17:00-17:30 — **Grading by the Jury and Awards**

- **Foteini Asderaki,** Professor, Chair Jean Monnet, Director of East-med Jean Monnet Center of Excellence 2.0, University of Piraeus
- **Elvira Forte,** Public Relations Official, Office of the European Parliament in Greece
- **Aphrodite Gagara Kozonaki,** Researcher - Scientific Partner, Project Manager in the Center of Security Research, SQUARE.

With the support of the **MSc in International and European Studies**, as well as:

ΟΔΕΘ | Young European Federalists Greece

Hackathon on Disinformation in the European Union

On 25 May 2026, EXCELEM 2.0 co-organised a Hackathon on Disinformation in the European Union at the University of Piraeus, together with Europe Direct ELIAMEP Attikis, Europe Direct Piraeus, the office of the European Parliament in Greece, EU YouthHub, as well as the Young European Federalists Greece.

The event brought participants together to work collaboratively on contemporary challenges related to disinformation, including fact-checking, disinformation networks, deepfakes and AI, and the political impact of disinformation. Working in teams and supported by expert mentors, participants developed policy-oriented solutions and presented their results at the end of the Hackathon.
The initiative combined academic knowledge with practical teamwork, encouraging participants to critically assess the challenges posed by disinformation and translate their ideas into concrete policy proposals.

Highlights

Welcome and Opening:
Prof. Foteini Asderaki, together with representatives of Europe Direct ELIAMEP Attikis, Europe Direct Piraeus, the European Parliament Office in Greece and JEF Piraeus Athens, welcomed participants and introduced the objectives of the Hackathon.
EXCELEM 2.0 Presentation:
Petros Tsachouridis, researcher at the ERDIC Laboratory of the University of Piraeus, presented the East-Med Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence 2.0, its activities and opportunities for engagement.
Hacking Time – Teamwork and Mentoring:
Participants worked in teams with the support of mentors from the National Cybersecurity Authority, journalism and fact-checking, Microsoft, and the Center for Security Studies, developing responses to key challenges surrounding disinformation in the EU.
Presentation, Evaluation and Awards:
The teams presented their results to the Evaluation Committee. The final session provided an opportunity to assess the proposed solutions, exchange feedback and recognise the participants' work, concluding a day centred on collaboration, critical thinking and policy-oriented learning.



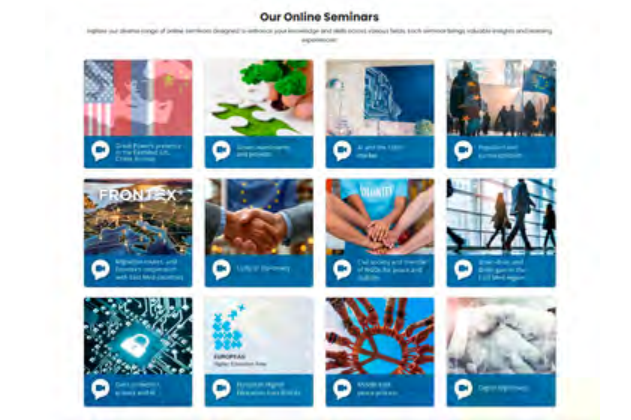
EXCELEM 2.0 Website

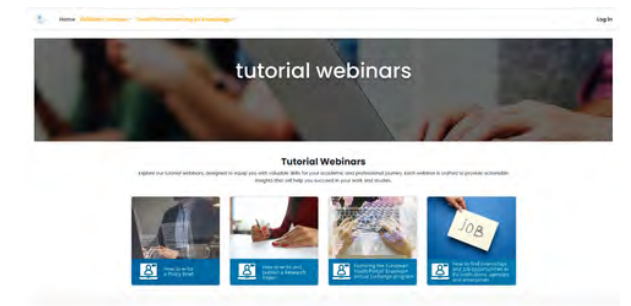
We are excited to announce the launch of the official website for the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence EXCELEM 2.0. Through the website you can read all the news and information related to the activities of the project, research initiatives and opportunities.

The link of the website is the following https://excelem.eu/. We would love to hear from you as you explore our website and learn more about how you can engage with EXCELEM 2.0.









STAY TUNED

EXCELEM 2.0 Platform

Work is well underway on the EXCELEM 2.0 Platform, which will offer microlearning programmes, seminars, tutorial webinars, hackathons, badges and many more. The platform is currently in development and is expected to launch in the coming months—stay tuned!

https://platform.excelem.eu/



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Stay Connected | Social Media

EXCELEM 2.0 is active on social media! Join our growing community and stay up to date with the latest news, events, publications, and opportunities.

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Why you should follow our social media?



✅ Upcoming events, conferences, seminars etc.
✅ Research updates & publications
✅Opportunities
✅Microlearing Programme

Contact Us

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